Court Record Retention Schedule – Minnesota District Courts

This document has been divided into the following section:

- A. The Court Records Management Process in Minnesota
- B. Special Notes: Microfilm and Fiche
- C. Section I Disposition of Case Files, Indexes, Miscellaneous Papers
- D. Section II Disposition of Documents within specific Case Files
- E. Section III Disposition of Reports

A. The Court Records Management Process in Minnesota

In 1981-82 a Record Retention Committee composed of Court and District Administrators, Judges, record administrators and archivists first addressed the retention requirements of various court records and file series. Having determined retention periods for the various records the Committee discussed their recommendations with Court Administrators and judges throughout Minnesota. When a consensus was reached the Committee sought and received the approval for the record schedule from the Minnesota Conference of Chief and Assistant Chief Judges (CCJ). Based on this approval the Committee requested and received the approval of the record schedule from the State Records Panel. The State Records Panel includes representatives from the Offices of the State Auditor, Legislative Auditor, and Attorney General, and is headed by the State Archivist.

The Minnesota State Records Retention Schedule thus utilizes the authority of M.S. 138.17 that permits the orderly destruction of public records. The current schedule supersedes the schedule last modified in 2002.

This schedule, as others before it, may be modified. The process for modification is to recommend changes to the Procedures and Forms Committee of the Conference of Chief Judges. Upon review and approval by the committee, these changes are presented to the CCJ for further action and possible inclusion in a subsequent schedule, pending return of notice by the State Records Panel.

For further information or clarification please contact:

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B. Special Notes: Microfilm and Fiche

Unless noted otherwise, all court records may be placed on microfilm or fiche. However, prior to destruction of any original record, the film or fiche must be tested and destruction of the original record approved by the State Records Panel. The purpose of the testing is to assure that a reliable copy of the record can be retrieved regardless whether the retention schedule calls for a very short retention period or permanent retention. Guidelines for testing are found at: State Archives Department, Minnesota Historical Society (651) 297-4502.

Both the original document and/or any microform may be destroyed if the record has met the retention period indicated on the Schedule.

C. Section I - Disposition of Case Files, Indexes and Miscellaneous Papers

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	<u>Ultimate Disposition of Record</u>
1.	Accounting Department Records: a. Journals, Monthly Reports to County Auditor or Treasurer, check book registers, bank statements	6 years	Destroy
	b. Copies of receipts (such as generated by automated TCIS)	3 months	Destroy.
	c. Daily Trial Balance & Offline Journal Posting Report (as generated by automated TCIS)	3 months	Destroy.
2.	Adoption Case Files: Files and documents relating to adoption proceedings. M.S. 259	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
3.	Adoption Index and Register: Register contains brief chronological entries recording activity in the case; self-indexed.	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
4.	<u>Bar Memorials</u> : Biographical information and testimonials for deceased attorneys.	10 years	Transfer to State Archives.
5.	Board of Audit, Memoranda in re: Materials relating to designation of depositories for county funds, and audit of county treasurer's funds; fiscal deliberations. This Board functioned from 1910 to 1967.		
	a. Minute Book of Board of Audit	None	Transfer to State Archives
	b. Record Book of Board of Audit	None	Transfer to State Archives.
	c. Working Papers, Board of Audit	None	Destroy

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
6.	Bonds, Civil and Miscellaneous: Recognizances and undertaking required for security. Bonds for injunction, in attachment for appeal, for temporary restraining order. M.S. 574.01. (See Sureties, Index of below.)		
	 a. If a separate file has been created containing copies of the originals in the case file, such duplication is unnecessary. 	None	Destroy
	b. If bonds are in the case files, retain in the files in accordance with retention period of the file.		Retain in case file.
7.	Bonds, Index to Town and City Officers: Bonds posted to secure fulfillment of the duties of the office.		
	a. The only bonds that must be filed with the court administrator are those of the County Recorder (M.S. 386.01), and County Recorder's bond entered on the records of the court (M.S. 508.31). Pre-1982 bond of Town Clerk (M.S. 367.10) and Town Treasurer no longer filed with courts (see M.S. 367.15).	10 years	Transfer indexes and volumes to State Archives for selection and disposition. Destroy bonds after 10 years.
	 b. Bonds of all other county officials are filed with the County Recorder (M.S. 574.21(2); M.S. 387.01; M.S. 382.10). M.S. 376.21 (repealed 1980) required that Justice of the Peace file bond with court administrator, but this is no longer the case. Frequently termed "Oaths & Bonds Record." 	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.
8.	Bonds, Living and Dead Trust: Bond that may be required of a trustee to secure the faithful discharge of the trust. M.S. 501.28 (repealed 1989). Bond should be filed with case file. (See also Sureties, Index of, below.)		Dispose in accordance with destruction of file.
9.	Bonds, Oaths, Notices, Resignations, Orders of Appointment:		
	a. Oaths of office; bonds posted to secure faithful discharge of duties, secured by two sureties.		Retain until statute of limitations expires.
	b. Notices of election or appointment and notice of qualification of city and township officers; orders of court to appoint, to increase salaries, to define duties, to accept resignations.	10 years	Destroy, M.S. 485.23, 1(d).
10.	<u>Business Certificates</u> , also called Certificate of Business Name.	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
11.	Business Certificates, Index to: Filing with district court was required of businesses not incorporated and doing business under a name other than the owner's. In 1978 certification was transferred to the Secretary of State.	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
12.	Calendars - Criminal, General and Special Term Civil, Torrens and Registration, Default Dissolution with and without Children, Other: Daily schedule of activity before the court. Includes names of parties and attorneys; name of judge, referee, or examiner; file number; date set for appearance.	None	Destroy
13.	Change of Name, Index and Register: Alphabetical index by original name and changed name, keyed to civil register. Register shows minutes of papers filed in the proceedings. (Many counties do not have a separate index.) See Civil Files.		If not indexed elsewhere, then: Retain permanently in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
	a. Change of Name Affidavits: State Registrar of vital statistics keeps the original, the court administrator's copy is a duplicate.	None	Destroy
14.	<u>Civil Case Files</u> : Files and documents relating to matters within the original, concurrent, or appellate jurisdiction of the court. This does not include Family or Probate case files .		
	a. All civil files, except those listed below.	10 years	Retention of Civil case files was significantly revised in 1998/99. The revisions permit the destruction of almost all civil cases with significant exceptions as noted below. Transfer pre-1950 files to State Archives for selection and disposition. Post-1950 files may be destroyed as noted below. Destroy ten years after final disposition, or entry of judgment, whichever is of longer duration.
	b. Civil files closed by administrative procedure	5 years	Destroy five years after file deemed inactive or closed.
	c. Rent Escrow case files	1 year	Destroy 1 year after final disposition.
	d. Minor Settlements	10 years	Destroy 10 years after final distribution.
	e. Municipal Court Files (from abolished municipal courts - does not include Hennepin & Ramsey Counties)	10 years	Destroy
	f. Unlawful Detainer	1/10 years	Destroy one year after file is closed; ten years if money judgment is ordered.

Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
g. County Court Civil Case Files, Indexes, Registers (NOTE: this does not include Family, Probate, Change of Name or Quiet Title case files - save Registers and Indexes for these files)	10 years	Destroy 10 years after file is closed.
h. Implied Consent	10 years	Destroy ten years after file is closed.
i. Change of Name files	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
j. Condemnation	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
k. Eminent Domain	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
l. Judicial Ditch	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
m. Quiet Title	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
n. Torrens	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
o. Trust	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
p. Contested Elections	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
 q. Cases decided by the Appellate Courts (with published opinions) 	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
r. Cases involving public entities dealing with jurisdictional issues. Example: A city vs. an airports commission;	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
s. "Treaty Rights" cases. Examples: Recent hunting and fishing rights cases in Minnesota.	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.
t. "Historically significant" cases. Examples: NAACP vs. state concerning education; class actions such as asbestos or Dalkon Shield; major discrimination cases, slander/libel of major figures etc. Certain locally significant cases may relate to important businesses, individuals, or organizations.	Permanent	Retain in court in original form on a microfilm or other archival quality medium.

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
15.	<u>Civil Index</u> : Index, by the name of the parties to a civil action, keyed to register and case files. M.S. § 485.08.		
	a. District Court	10years/ permanent	Transfer pre-1950 Index to State Archives. Post-1950 Index may be destroyed 10 years after last entry. Entries for "permanent" case files must be retained permanently in original form or microfilm or other archival quality medium.
	b. County Court	10 years	Destroy 10 years after last entry.
16.	Civil Judgment Book, County Court and District Court - See Judgment Books.		
17.	<u>Civil Registers</u> : For each case, brief chronological entries recording activity in the case. Original entry in register establishes case file number.		
	a. District Court	10years/ permanent	Transfer pre-1950 Register to State Archives. Post-1950 Register may be destroyed 10 years after last entry. Entries for "permanent" case files must be retained permanently in original form or microfilm or other archival quality medium.
	b. County Court	20 years	Destroy 20 years after last entry.
18.	Conciliation Court Index and Register: Index, by surnames of both parties, keyed to register and case files. Register contains brief chronological entries recording activity in a case M.S. § 485.07.	10 years	Destroy ten years after entry of judgment.
19.	Conciliation Court Judgment Docket: Records the fact and amount of judgment, required names of the parties, whether satisfied or not.	None	This record is not required by statute. The file contains all necessary information.
20.	<u>Conciliation Court Files</u> : Contains the papers filed in an action within the jurisdiction of the conciliation court.	10 years	Destroy ten years after entry of judgment.
21.	Confession of Judgment (Composite Judgment), Receipt for Delinquent Taxes: Confession of judgment for delinquent real estate taxes as authorized by M.S. § 279.37.	10 years	Destroy ten years after entry of judgment.
22.	Coroner's Certificates	20 years	Transfer to State Archives.
23.	Coroner's Certificates, Index to	20 years	Transfer to State Archives.
24.	Coroner's Inquest Testimony and all Records of Proceedings M.S. § 390.17.	20 years	Transfer to State Archives.
25.	Court Commissioner Docketbook: M.S. § 357.28 and 489.	None	Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.

Record Title, Content & Usage	Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
26. <u>Court Reporters Notes</u> : A complete record, in stenographic characters of all testimony before a judge or referee on trial of issues of fact. Filed with the court administrator when the trial is ended. M.S. 486.03.		(See specific breakdown below.) Retention of Court Reports Notes is the same for each category, regardless of the medium of storage – i.e. paper retention is the same as tape retention.
a. Civil, Family and Probate Case Notes	5 years	Destroy five years after conclusion of trial.
b. Criminal Case Notes – Felony and Gross Misdemeanor	10 years	Destroy ten years after case disposed.
c. Criminal Case Notes – Misdemeanors	10 years	Destroy ten years after case disposed.
Special Note: Reporters shall separate notes pertaining to civil matters from those dealing with criminal cases. Notes should be clearly marked with names and file number of case and date for retrieval purposes. Reporter should retain notes for a minimum of six months, then transfer to the court administrator in standard storage boxes with appropriate labels to identify contents. This transfer must be accomplished within two years.		
d. Audio-Tapes: (if tapes are not transcribed)		
 Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Proceedings 	10 years	Destroy or recycle tapes.
 Traffic Court Proceedings 	1 year	Destroy or recycle tapes.
 Misdemeanor Proceedings 	10 year	Destroy or recycle tapes.
 Petty Misdemeanor Proceedings 	1 year	Destroy or recycle tapes.
 Conciliation Court Proceedings 	None	Destroy or recycle tapes.
Civil, Family, or Probate	5 years	Destroy or recycle tapes.
Juvenile	6 months	Destroy or recycle tapes.
e. Transcribed Tapes: Transcribed notes (all case types)	6 months	Destroy or recycle tapes.
f. Transcripts of Court Reporter's Notes: Stenographic record transcribed into ordinary readable form; seldom done for the entire record. Most often used on appeal, but must be furnished to any interested person upon payment of the cost of transcription. Portions often found in the case file.		Retain with case file for length of time indicated for that case file.

27. Criminal and Traffic Case Files:

a. Felony Permanent

Transfer pre-1950 case files to State Archives. Post-1950 case files must be retained permanently in original form or microfilm or other archival quality medium.

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
b.	Gross Misdemeanor (Exception!! Do not destroy cases related to domestic violence since a conviction may result in the	20 years	Destroy 20 years after date of final disposition.
	permanent ban on the possession of firearms. A review of 18 USCS 922(g) is suggested for a description of the types of cases that may have to be retained. This matter is under review.)		(Please note exception for domestic violence cases)
c.	Misdemeanor – DWI, Boating while intoxicated, operating a snowmobile	15 years	Destroy 15 years after date of final disposition.
	or All Terrain Vehicle while intoxicated, operating an aircraft while intoxicated.		"Paper" citations including case- related notes and DPS 1045 documents may be destroyed 1 year after date of disposition if the data has been captured in an electronic format – e.g. TCIS. However, the
	Currently under review: Recently revised statute permits enhancement of a charge if committed within 10 years of the original offense. (M.S. 169A03 Subd 3, 169A.25 through 27 and 169A.275)		destruction of the citation will not include the paper copy of the "Petition to enter a plea of guilty" in "enhanceable" misdemeanor cases. The electronic record must be retained for the full retention period – i.e. 15 years.
d.	Misdemeanor (Non-Traffic) and Failure to provide vehicle Insurance M.S. 169.797 subd.4.	10 years	Destroy 10 years after date of final disposition. The "paper "citation may be
			destroyed 1 year after disposition as described in "27c" above.
e.	Misdemeanor - All traffic and local ordinance violations that do not	5 years	Destroy 5 years after date of final disposition.
	conform to a statutory misdemeanor. The following are excluded: DWI etc. covered under "c" above and Failure to provide Vehicle Insurance "d" above.		The "paper "citation may be destroyed 1 year after disposition as described in "27c" above.
	(See note above under 27 b regarding the necessary retention of domestic violence cases)		(Please note exception for domestic violence cases)
f.	Petty Misdemeanor – Traffic and non-traffic related	3 years	Destroy 3 years after final disposition.
			The "paper "citation may be destroyed 1 year after disposition as described in "27c" above.
g.	Parking Tickets		Retain until next financial audit has been completed.
			The "paper "citation may be destroyed 1 year after disposition as described in "27c" above.

Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
h. County Court Criminal First Appearance Files	None	Destroy immediately unless a warrant has been issued.
28. <u>Criminal Court Minutes</u> (See Minutes below.)		
29. Criminal Indictments, Not Arraigned: Indictments and information notifying the court of essential facts relating to an offense which may have been committed, but the alleged defendant never pleaded to the charge. Names of witnesses examined by the grand jury. M.S. § 622.26 (repealed 1963)	. 25 years	. Destroy
a. Homicides only.	50 years	Destroy
30. <u>Criminal Receipts</u> (See Accounting Department Records above.)		
31. <u>Criminal and Traffic Index and Registers</u> :		
a. Felony	Permanent	Transfer pre-1950 Index to State Archives. Post-1950 Index must be retained permanently in original form or microfilm or other archival quality medium.
b. Gross Misdemeanor	20 years	Destroy 20 years after date of conviction.
c. Misdemeanor (non-traffic)	10 years	Destroy 10 years after last entry.
d. Misdemeanor (traffic)	5/10 years	Destroy 5 years after last entry, except: 10 years for No-Insurance see #27d above.
e. DWI violations, including boating, snowmobiling, operating an ATV or aircraft while intoxicated	15 years	Destroy 15 years after most recent DWI conviction recorded - see #27c above.
f. Petty Misdemeanor (traffic and non-traffic)	3 years	Destroy 3 years after last entry.
32. <u>Defendants Index, Civil</u> : See Plaintiff-Defendant Index.		
33. Delinquent Real Estate Tax Files including newspaper publication of delinquent tax list as required by M.S. § 279.09, list of delinquent real estate taxes filed with the court administrator by the county auditor in compliance with M.S. § 279.05.		
 a. Original judgment for delinquent real estate taxes, the content of which is specified by M.S. § 279.16. 	10 years	Destroy 10 years after entry of judgment.
34. <u>Depositions</u> :		

Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
 Depositions pertaining to a filed case. 		Upon final disposition of the case parties may be notified to remove depositions. Failure to remove items within 15 days is deemed authorization to destroy these depositions.
 Deposition where no file was ever opened. (Rule 5.04 of Civil Procedures prevents filing as of 7/1/85.) 	5 years	Destroy 5 years after date received.
35. <u>Drivers License Records</u> : The court administrator may receive applications for driver's licenses pursuant to M.S. § 171.06(4) – repealed 1997. Records reflecting this activity include deposit receipts, reports to the Motor Vehicle Division (now Driver and Vehicle Services Division), batch sheets and daily receipt sheets.	6 years	Destroy
a. Licenses	None	Destroy
36. Exhibits: a. Civil Case Exhibits	15 days	Upon final disposition of the case parties may be notified to remove all exhibits. Failure to remove items within 15 days is deemed authorization to destroy such exhibits.
b. Criminal Case Exhibits		
 Felony cases where the defendant is incarcerated 		Retain exhibits for period of incarceration; or return exhibits if prosecutor and judge agree.
 Felony cases where the defendant is given a stayed sentence 		Return exhibits per agreement by the prosecutor and the judge.
 Exhibits in cases where defendant is incarcerated 		Retain for duration of defendant's sentence. Destroy.
 Exhibits in cases with stay of imposition or sentence 	1 year	Destroy one year after imposition.
 Stolen goods used as exhibits in criminal cases 	1 year	Release to owner as soon as possible, retain no longer than one year after disposition. The use of photographs is recommended as substitutes for retention of physical evidence.
■ Contraband		Contraband may be destroyed according to currently instituted procedures.

c. Juvenile Case Exhibits

Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
 Delinquency 	30 days	Upon final disposition of the case (after 30 day appeal period has run or appeal decision has been entered), parties may be notified to remove all exhibits. Failure to remove items within 15 days is deemed authorization to destroy such exhibits.
 Child in Need of Protection and Services 	30 days	Upon final disposition (permanency) of the last child relating to a case, and after the 30-day appeal period has run or a decision entered, parties may be notified to remove all exhibits. Failure to remove items within 15 days is deemed authorization to destroy such exhibits.
d. Potentially Hazardous Exhibits (applicable to any case type): see CCJ Administrative Policy No. 21, Potentially Hazardous Exhibit Procedures, "Return of Exhibits" for retention information. See also "Motor Vehicle Plates" #63 below		
37. Extradition Orders:	10 years	This applies to orders for extradition that remain in an administrative file and never entered into a criminal file.
38. <u>Family Division Files</u> :		
a. Marriage Dissolutions	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
b. Annulments	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
c. Separate Maintenance	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
d. Support	10 years	Retain in original form until child reaches majority and no outstanding judgments.
	_	Destroy.
e. Paternity	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
f. Other Family Files	40 years	Destroy 40 years after file is closed.
g. Domestic Abuse	10 years	Destroy 10 years after file is closed
(See also: Adoption Files, Juvenile Files)		
39. <u>Family Cases Index</u> : (same as District Civil Index Above).		

	Record Title, Content & Usage	in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
40.	<u>Family Cases Register</u> : (same as District Civil Register above).		
41.	Grand Jury Materials: Materials relating to the selection of grand juries, and to their investigating and reporting activities (see M.S. § 628.61). True bills, no bills, criminal indictments, grand jury reports, venire facia, and special venires. a. True Bill		An effort is currently under way to determine the extent of Grand Jury materials residing with the courts and recommendations will soon be made regarding the disposition of materials not enumerated below. Retain with case file, copies may be destroyed.
	b. Minutes or records of the grand jury created in its capacity under M.S. 628.61 (2) and (3) to investigate the conditions of public prisons and the misconduct of county officers.	None	Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.
42.	Hospital Lien and Release of Lien: Lien for hospital care rendered to an injured person upon any cause of action accruing to the person on account of the injuries. M.S. § 514.6871.	2 years	Destroy two years from date of docketing.
43.	Hospital Lien Record (Register) and Index: Index, by debtor-patient surname, keyed to register. Register records name of creditor-health facility, amount of lien, name of debtor, and date lien filed.	2 years	Destroy two years after last entry.
44.	Illegitimacy Case Files: Files and documents relating to illegitimacy proceedings. (These are usually part of the District Court Civil/Criminal Series.)		
45.	<u>Illegitimacy</u> <u>Register</u> : Brief chronological entries recording activity in the case.		
46.	<u>Incorporations</u> : Articles of Incorporation. Filed in the county where a corporation began doing business.	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
47.	<u>Indictment Record</u> : M.S. § 628.09 requires that a copy of the original indictment be kept in a separate "book."	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
48.	Indictment or Information Record: M.S. § 628.29-33 which dealt with the Form and Content of Information was repealed in 1979. These records should be dealt with as the Indictment Record above.	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
49.	Judgment Books: Contains chronological entry of judgment; court where judgment was rendered. A copy of the judgment is commonly found in the corresponding case file. There is no longer a legal requirement to maintain Judgment Books. M.S. § 485.07; 548.08; 548.15; 548.22; 572.22.	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.

Retention Period

Ultimate Disposition of Record

Record Title, Content & Usage

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
50.	Judgment Dockets: Contain alphabetical entries, by judgment debtor's surname. Docket shows the name of judgment debtor and judgment creditor, amount of the judgment, when judgment was entered, and whether or not the judgment has been satisfied. Required by M.S. § 485.07(3).	10 years	Destroy 10 years after last entry.
51.	<u>Judges' Jury List</u> : List of prospective jurors who may be called to serve as petit jurors; lists for each judge, by year.	None	Destroy
52.	Judge's Record Books (Minute Books): Notes, in judge's hand, recording the proceedings before his court. Includes names of parties, attorneys, and witnesses; case numbers, an abstract of testimony, motions offered, dispositions, etc.	None	Not a public record. Disposition at discretion of judge. May be transferred to State Archives.
	Jury documents – a. <u>Jurors Questionnaire</u> : Form sent to prospective jurors for return of general information about the juror such as age and occupation. An administrative aid for jury selection. b. <u>Qualified Juror List</u> (Master list); Documentation pertaining to excuses Jury-related reports:	2 years	Destroy
J-1.	a. Management reports – may include reports pertaining to summons yield, case activity, juror activity, cost per trial and similar reports	2 years	Destroy "paper" copy 2 years after date of creation. The retention requirement is met – i.e. no paper copy needs to be kept – if an
	 b. Demographic reports – pertaining to juries c. Ad hoc reports generated by various "jury" programs/applications 	4 years No retention required	electronic copy of the report can be generated at will of if an electronic copy has been stored

Minimum Retention Period in Court

Ultimate Disposition of Record

55. <u>Jury Pay Roll</u>: Itemization of expenses due a juror for jury service. Shows the juror's name and number, judge(s) before whom the juror served, dates of service (or reasons for being excused), amount paid, (per diem and mileage), and the juror's signature. [Various Jury-related financial records which summarize or merely record data in differing ways are deemed to be duplicated data – i.e. convenience copies and are not considered "primary" records}

None

Destroy. Although M.S. § 485.23, subd. 1(a) calls for 10 year retention, subd. 2 indicates that the retention period may be shortened. There is an electronic record of these reports, therefore, there is no need for retention of paper printouts.

The electronic record is the "primary record." Primary records they may be retained in electronic form if such data is appropriately backed up and not subject to tampering. As with all other financial records, the electronic record will be retained for 6 years after creation.

Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.

- 56. <u>Justice Court Dockets</u>: Journal required of a justice of the peace, entries reflecting the daily activity of a justice court. M.S. § 530.08, § 633.04 (both repealed).
- 57. Justice Court Materials, Index to; Justice Court Returns: Reports of the disposition of cases before justice court; fine or bail amounts noted. The justice of peace was required to report periodically about work to the court. M.S. § 487.35(3) and 633.28 (repealed 1977). With the abolition of the J.P. courts some of these records were, or may have been transferred to the District Courts.

a. Indexes

b. Registers

c. Certificate of Conviction

d. Justice Court Return

- 58. <u>Juvenile Case Files</u>: Files containing papers, reports to the court, and orders relating to delinquency, dependency and neglect of minors. Kept by the administrator pursuant to M.S. § 260.041.
 - a. Education Neglect (CHE), Child in Need of Protection (CHP), Runaway (CHR), Truancy (CHT), Delinquency under age 10 (CHU), CHP's Voluntary Placement (CHV), CHP's Mentally Ill (CMI), Juvenile Petty Offender (JPO), Juvenile Traffic (JTR), Status Offense (STO).

None

None None

10 years 6 years Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.

Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.

Destroy.

Retention/destruction of records dependent on age of individual.

Record Title, Content & Usage

Minimum Retention Period in Court

Ultimate Disposition of Record

Retain until subject is 19 years old.

 Once a person attains the age 19 and no matters remain pending in juvenile court regarding that person, and the person has not been adjudicated for an offense which would be a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony, committed by an adult, the file shall be destroyed.

• Exception: Delinquency or Juvenile traffic files based on DWI

 Exception: Failure to provide vehicle insurance (M.S. 169.797 subd. 4)

b. Case Plan Approval (CPA), Delinquency Felony (DFL), Delinquency Gross Misdemeanor (DGM), Delinquency Misdemeanor (DMS), Juvenile Other (JOT), Traffic History (TRH). (Also obsolete TCIS case types of Delinquency (DEL) and Juvenile Harassment (JHR).

- Once a person attains the age of 28 and no matters remain pending pursuant to Chapter 260 regarding that person, any records not destroyed under the provisions of (a) above shall be destroyed.
- Note on Destruction: A record shall be destroyed by the physical destruction of the entire contents of the court file and the removal of the name from any index or data from the register maintained by the court. A record may be kept of the file numbers indicating that the file therein has been destroyed. microfilm record or duplicate copy of the court file shall not be retained beyond the designated expiration date.
- c. Dependency & Neglect files (obsolete TCIS case types DEP, NEG)
- d. Parental Notification files
- e. Termination of Parental Rights

Permanent

Retain for 15 years after offense

Retain for 10 years after offense date.

Retain until subject is 28 years old. Except: Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Cases: When a juvenile has been designated as a EJJ the related case files must be retained for the same duration as adult records for similar crimes - i.e. felony = permanent retention; gross misd. = 20 years retention after date of disposition.

Retain until subject is 19 years old.

Retain until subject is 18 years old. Retain in court in original form or

on microfilm or other archival quality medium.

Retain until subject is 19 years old.

f. Foster Care Review (FOS) and Voluntary Placement (VOL)

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
59.	Juvenile Index and Register: Index, alphabetical, keyed to register and case file. Register contains brief chronological entries recording activity in the case. M.S. § 260.161, subd. 1 (repealed 1999). The broader requirement to keep record is found in M.S. 260.041.		Index and Register is retained for the same period of time as the case files - see above. Note: Names of individuals should be deleted as suggested above.
60.	Juvenile Traffic Offender Index and Register: M.S. § 260.193, subd. 10 (repealed 1999) required that records of juvenile highway and water traffic "be kept separate from delinquency matter." The broader requirement to keep records		Index and Register is retained for the same period of time as the files - see above.
	is found in M.S. 260.41.		
61.	Juvenile Minute Book	None	This record is not required by statute.
62.	<u>Liquor</u> :		
	a. Liquor, Index to Purchasers and Sellers	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
	b. Liquor prescriptions	None	Destroy
63.	<u>Minutes</u> : (court administrator's or deputy's minutes of court proceedings.)		
	a. If the minutes are kept in the case file folder		Retain as long as case file is kept.
	b. If the minutes have been kept in bound books prior to 1982	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
	c. Rough draft of Minutes	None	Destroy
64.	Motor Vehicle Plates: M.S. 168.041, subd. 4 allows for the impounding of motor vehicle registration plates.	None	Destroy plates.
65.	Municipal Court Dockets (from abolished municipal courts): Brief summary of activity in each case, with a record of fines and costs assessed and paid. For other municipal court records, see appropriate record type.	None	Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.
66.	Naturalization Materials	None	For all naturalization material: Recommend immediate transfer to State Archives. Counties that still process naturalizations are exempt from recommendations.
67.	Notarial Jurats and Certificates: Receipt stubs recording court administrator's certification that a person subscribed as a notary is indeed commissioned as a notary. M.S. § 359.061.	6 years	Destroy. Retain until publication of audit.
68.	Notary Public Commissions Record of: Recording with the court administrator of a notary's commission as required by M.S. § 359.061; indexed by notary's surname.	7 years	Destroy.

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
69.	<u>Patents</u> : Nineteenth century certificates of patent filed at the district court.	None	Immediate transfer to State Archives.
	(Delinquent) Personal Property Tax Files: Includes all records relating to these proceedings. Plaintiff-Defendant Index (Civil Indexes):	10 years	Destroy. Retain for 10 years after entry of judgment. M.S. § 485.13(b).
70	(see Civil Index above).	Communication of the	Destar
	Probable Cause- Order For Detention (only if not part of a case file) Probate:	6 years from date of issuance.	Destroy.
	a. Book of Bonds: Volume containing bonds ordered by the court. Often kept in the file; the fact that a bond was required is noted in the probate register.	None	Destroy.
	b. Book of Claims: No longer a required record. Contained records of claims against estates; self-index.	None	Destroy.
	c. Book of Letters: Letters of administration, conservatorship, and guardianship. These letters are commonly found in the file and the date of the letters is noted in the probate register.	None	Destroy.
	d. Book of Orders: A copy of each order is commonly found in the case file, and the date of any order is noted in the probate register.	None	Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.
	e. Book of Wills: Wills admitted to probate are indexed, and a copy is placed in this book.	None	Transfer to State Archives.
	f. Case Files: Papers and documents relating to a proceeding before the probate court. (M.S. § 525.091, subd. 1, enumerates documents which must be kept.)	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
	g. Probate Inheritance Tax Books: This book was eliminated.	None	Destroy.
	h. Probate Index: Required by M.S. §525.03(1), which also enumerates the categories to be indexed. Keyed to case file and register.	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
	i. Probate Register: Contains the minutes of the probate proceedings; keyed to books of bonds, wills, claims, letters, and orders. Required by M.S. § 525.03(2).	Permanent	Retain in court in original form or on microfilm or other archival quality medium.
	j. Probate Minute Book: (Not required by statute.)	10 years	Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.

Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
 k. Probate - Documents: Notice of Intent to transfer and Safe Deposit Box Report. These documents are no longer required. 	3 years	Destroy 3 years after filing.
 Probate - Demand for Notice – provided for in M.S. 524.3-204 	3 years	Destroy 3 years after filing.
 m. Guardianship/Conservatorship Vouchers – If Not File Stamped 	Until order approving accounting is signed.	Return to party submitting vouchers.
n. Guardianship/Conservatorship Vouchers – If File Stamped	5 years	Destroy 5 years after filing of order allowing annual accounting or 5 years from discharge of conservator/guardian.
 Guardianship/Conservatorship Vouchers – In Final Accounting of Decedent Estate 	5 years	Destroy 5 years after date of order allowing final account.
74. Professional Filings: The requirement to file with the court administrator has been repealed for the following: Basic Sciences, Physicians, Surgeons & Osteopaths, Chiropractors, Massage, Dentists, and Veterinarians. Note: The Clergy is still required to file with the court administrator. M.S. 517.05.	None	Transfer to State Archives for selection and disposition.
75. <u>Public Assistance Liens</u>	2 years.	Destroy two years from date of docketing.
76. Race Data Forms: Forms were developed for the purpose of collecting race (self-reported) from individuals appearing before the court. Information recorded on the sheets is entered on various court record management systems – e.g. TCIS.	None	Retain for audit purposes only for first three months after implementation of changes on TCIS system. Audit to be completed by January 2002.
77. <u>Real Estate Tax Judgments</u> : (See Delinquent Real Estate Files above.)		
78. Rules of Court: Local Rules of Procedure and Practice adopted by district courts.	None	Retention discretionary because rules are published. For current rules of the individual districts, see Minnesota Rules of Court or District Court rules, published as an appendix to Minnesota Statutes.
79. <u>Search Warrants</u> :		
a. Any "unexecuted" search warrant returned to the Court Administrator	None	May be destroyed immediately.
 Executed search warrants which have not been placed in a case file 	6 years	May be destroyed 6 years after return.
c. Executed search warrants which have been placed in a case file	Same as case file	Same as case file (see Section II, Criminal Case File Documents).
80. <u>Subpoenas:</u> Records of Subpoenas issued.	10 years	Destroy.

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
	Sureties, Index of: A record of the principal and the sureties on a bond, recognizance, or other secured obligation. Contains the case number, names and addresses of the sureties, name(s) of the principal, amount of obligation, date of filing. M.S. 629.69, requires this be kept as a separate book of record. TCIS Reports: Various management	10 years	Destroy ten years after last entry
	reports and notices generated by TCIS a. TCIS Disposition Bulletin. Normally sent to law enforcement agency	None	May be destroyed immediately if law enforcement agency does not want the report.
	b. Certificate of Conviction Report. Lists all disposition passed to DPS	None	May be destroyed after data pass to DPS has been verified. ISO staff suggests 6 month retention until all data pass problems have been resolved.
	c. Misc. TCIS management report		See Attachment A
83.	<u>Torrens</u> <u>Case</u> <u>Files</u> , Proceedings subsequent and other Files relating to real estate or title of property. See Civil Files.		
84.	<u>Torrens Proceedings Subsequent, Index</u> <u>and Register</u> . (See Civil Case Registers.)		
85.	<u>Torrens Land Registration Docket</u> (See Civil Case Registers.)		
86.	Torrens Decree Record: Recording of orders and decrees in Torrens registration proceedings. Show name of applicant or petitioner, case number, findings, and encumbrances on the property that will be reflected on the certificate of title. M.S. § 508.11.	None	Destroy since this record is no longer required.
87.	Torrens "O" Files: A separate file that may be kept for administrative communications, requests for appointments, requests to dispose of records, and other administrative records relating to the position of examiner of titles. (Not required by statute – recommend that no separate record be kept.)	None	Destroy.
88.	Traffic Citation: The ticket in lieu of arrest. Contains the name of the defendant, officer, and offense. M.S. § 492.05 and § 493.03. (See Criminal Case Files above.)		
89.	Traffic citation inventories/logs of dispersal & return of citation from law enforcement (citations court issue to law enforcement).	2 years	Destroy 2 years after return has been noted.

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
90.	<u>Traffic and Ordinance Violations Index</u> <u>and Register</u> . (See Criminal Index and Register above.)		
91.	<u>Transcript of Court Reporter Notes.</u> (See Court Reporter Notes.)		
92.	Trust Case Files. (See Civil Files.)		
93.	<u>Trusteeship Index, Register</u> . (See Civil Register.)		
94.	<u>Trust Case Files</u> : Files and documents relating to the administration of trust within the purview of the district court. See civil file above.		
95.	<u>Vital Statistics</u> : Pursuant to M.S. § 485.14, the court administrator (as county registrar) may receive, for preservation, birth and death records.	Permanent	Retain in court.
	a. Birth Certificates and Delayed Birth Certificates: See M.S. § 485.14.	Permanent	Retain in court.
	b. Index to Birth Certificates: Index, by surname, keyed to birth register (Item 87c).	Permanent	Retain in court.
	c. Birth Record (Register): Information entered from birth certificates as they are filed at the court.	Permanent	Retain in court.
	d. Index to Deaths: Index by surname of deceased, keyed to record of deaths (Item 87e).	Permanent	Retain in court.
	e. Record of Deaths: Contains information from death certificates.	Permanent	Retain in court.
	f. Death Certificates.	Permanent	Retain in court.
96.	<u>Vital Statistics, Marriage Records</u> :		
	 a. Index to Marriages: Index by surname, shows date of application, date of marriage. 	Permanent	Retain in court.
	b. Marriage License Book: Record of application and license for marriage, and the certificate of marriage, pursuant to M.S. § 517.10; see also sections 517.06, 517.07 and 517.08.	Permanent	Retain in court.
	c. Marriage License Waiver (five day waiting period per M.S. 517.08, Subd. 1b).	1 year	Destroy one year after creation date.
	d. Marriage License Waiver for a minor - M.S. 517.02.	Permanent	Retain Waiver with marriage license.
97.	Marriage Return	2 years	Destroy after recording.
98.	<u>Vital Statistics Record Books</u> : Kept by townships or villages (1870-1953). Birth and death registers turned over to the court.	None	Transfer to State Archives.

Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
99. Warrant Receipts: Record of payment for services of witnesses, term of court, amount paid per diem and per mile.	6 years	Retain in original form until records are 6 years old. Destroy.
100. Wills Deposited with the Courts: M.S. § 525.22 (repealed 1994) specified that during the testator's lifetime "such will shall be delivered only to him," i.e., the will is confidential and remains sealed until the death of the testator.	75 years	Destroy 75 years after deposit.

D. Section II - Disposition of Documents within specific case file series

Civil Case File Documents:

The current retention schedule requires that all district court civil be retained permanently, except those files that have been specifically enumerated.

Retention requirements abbreviations:

Same as file = retention of the document is the same as for the entire file - i.e. if the file is retained for 10 years

then the document is retained for same period, if file retention is permanent then document

retention is also permanent

1 year = indicates the number of years a document must be retained after case is closed an appeal period

has expired

DOCUMENT RETENTION REQUIREMENT

(1)	Summons & Complaint with affidavit of Service	same as file
(2)	Answer	same as file
(3)	Petition for appointment of Trustee & order	
` /	A. Petition	1 year
	B. Order	same as file
(4)	Oath of Trustee	1 year
(5)	Petition to Intervene and Order	· ·
	A. Petition	1 year
	B. Order	same as file
(6)	Discovery document:	1 year
	Interrogatories &	·
	Answers, Motion to	
	Compel & Order, Notice	
	to take deposition	
(7)	Deposition Transcripts ("old" depositions	1 year
	created prior to current rules)	-
(8)	Cert. of Representation (may film for	1 year
	convenience)	
(9)	Informational Statement	1 year
	Scheduling Order	1 year
	Calendar Notice	1 year
, ,	Pretrial Order	1 year
(13)	Motion for Summary Judgment and Order	
	A. Motion & Memorandum supporting or	1 year
	opposing	
	B. Order	same as file
` /	Witness & exhibit list	1 year
	Proposed Jury instructions	1 year
	Jury list prepared by courtroom clerk	same as file
	Exhibit list prepared by courtroom clerk	same as file
	Jury Instructions	1 year
. ,	Verdict	same as file
(20)	Finding of Fact etc.	
	Notice of Entry	same as file
	Notice of Appeal	same as file
(22)	Documents making arrangements for court	1 year
	Reporter for trial transcript	

	Record Title, Content & Usage	Minimum Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
(23)	Trial Transcript	same as file	
(24)	Appellate decision & Notice of Entry	Same as file	
(25)	Judge's Notes		
	Clerk's Minute sheets	1 year	
	Notices	1 year	
	Misc. Correspondence	1 year	
	SJIS report sheets	1 year	
	Other documents not	1 year	
	File stamped	1 year	

Criminal Case File Documents:

(1) Bench warrant

The current Retention schedule allows destruction of all criminal files except felony files. "Criminal" misdemeanor must be kept for 10 years, alcohol-related misdemeanors for 15 years, and gross misdemeanors for 20 years.

1 year

(1)	Delicii warrant	i yeai
(2)	Search warrant	same as file
(3)	Tab charge or long form complaint	same as file
(4)	Criminal history/DL record	1 year
(5)	Affidavit of Indigency and appointment of	same as file
	Public Defender	
(6)	Police Reports	1 year
(7)	Notices of Rules of Evidence by prosecutor and	1 year
	defense	•
(8)	Certificate of Representation	same as file
(9)	Motion & Order to reduce bail	1 year
(10)	Omnibus order	same as file
(11)	Speedy trial demand	1 year
(12)	Petition to enter guilty plea	same as file
	Transcript of plea, sentencing and revocation	same as file
	hearing	
(14)	Pre-sentencing investigation	
	Psychological report	
	Rule 25 report	
	Rule 20 report	10 years
(15)	Sentencing worksheet	same as file
(16)	Probation rules	same as file
(17)	Jury list prepared in courtroom	same as file
	Exhibit list prepared in courtroom	same as file
	Verdict form	same as file
(20)	Findings of fact and notice of entry	same as file
(21)	Warrant of commitment	same as file
(22)	Appeal Documents	
	A. Notice of appeal	same as file
	B. Court Reporter notice	1 year
	C. Others	same as file
(23)	Appellate decision	same as file
(24)	Trial transcript	same as file
(25)	Probation violation report	same as file
(26)	Annual progress reports	1 year
(27)	Discharge from probation	same as file
	Certificate of restitution	same as file
(29)	Misc. documents:	
	Judge's minutes	1 year
	Clerk's minutes	1 year

	Minimum	
Record Title, Content & Usage	Retention Period in Court	Ultimate Disposition of Record
Misc. correspondence	1 year	
Notices	1 year	
SJIS reports	1 year	
SJIS Final Count	1 year	

Dissolution Case Files

At present the Retention Schedule requires that virtually all "Family" case files be retained permanently.

(1)	Summons & Petition	same as file
(2)	Admission of Service	same as file
(3)	Affidavit of Service	
(4)	Affidavit of Default & Non-military Service	same as file
(5)	Stipulation/Marital Termination Agreement	same as file
(6)	Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order	same as file
	for Judgment and Judgment & Decree	
(7)	Child Support recommendations	same as file
(8)	Amended Judgment & Decree	same as file
(9)	COLA	same as file
(10)	Answer & Counter-petition	same as file
(11)	Certificate of Representation	same as file
(12)	Informational Statement	same as file
(13)	Notice of Motion & Motion	same as file
	A. Order	same as file
(14)	Affidavits	same as file
(15)	Notice to County Child Support Office	same as file
(16)	Affidavit for proceeding In Forma Pauperis	1 year
(17)	Order for proceeding In Forma Pauperis	same as file
(18)	Custody Study	same as file
(19)	Guardian ad Litem reports	same as file
(20)	Order appointing Guardian ad Litem	same as file
(21)	Scheduling Order	1 year
(22)	Pre-trial Statement	1 year
(23)	Application for Temporary Relief	1 year
(24)	Order for Temporary Relief	same as file
(25)	Pre-trial Order	1 year
(26)	Motion to Amend Finding of Fact	same as file
	A. Order	same as file
	Notice to remove	same as file
	Certificate of Timeliness & Reassignment	same as file
	Order of Assignment	same as file
	Motion & Order for Discovery	1 year
(31)	Order to show Cause	1 year
	A. Final Order	same as file
(32)	Order for Custody Study	1 year
(33)	Motion for Modification of Child Support	same as file
	A. Order Modifying Child Support	same as file
(34)	Misc. documents:	
	Judge's minutes	1 year
	Clerk's minutes	1 year
	misc. correspondence	1 year
	Notices	1 year
	SJIS reports	1 year

Paternity Case Files

The current Retention Schedule requires that Paternity cases be retained permanently.

(1)	Summons & Petition	same as file
(2)	Answer	same as file
(3)	Order for Blood Testing	1 year
(4)	Report of War Memorial Blood Bank	same as file
(5)	Stipulation	same as file
(6)	Order of Adjudication	same as file
(7)	Judgment and Decree	same as file
(8)	Child Support Recommendation	same as file
(9)	COLA	same as file
(10)	Motion for Change in Child Support	same as file
	A. Order	same as file
(11)	Order to Show Cause	1 year
	A. Final Order	same as file
(12)	Order and Writ of Attachment	same as file
(13)	Motion for Change	
	in Custody (Amended Findings)	same as file
	A. Order	same as file
(14)	Affidavit for proceeding In Forma Pauperis	1 year
(15)	Order for proceeding In Forma Pauperis	same as file
(16)	Misc. documents:	
	Judge's minutes	1 year
	Clerk's minutes	1 year
	Misc. correspondence	1 year
	Notices	1 year
	SJIS reports	1 year

E. Section III – Disposition of Reports

TCIS Generated Reports

Retention period for Total Court Information System generated reports

(1)	Annual Random Selection of Jurors/Proof of	2 years		
	Randomness Report			
(2)	Annual Statement of Interest Accrued			
(3)	Archived Cases Report			
(4)	Archive Exception Report			
(5)	De-archived Cases (and TCIS Error)			
(6)	Calendar Adjustment	None		
(7)	Calendar Statistics	None		
(8)	Case Exception Review			
(9)	Cases Filed Statistics	None		
(10)	Certificate of Conviction Transmitted to DPS	None		
(11)	Batch Conviction Error Report (DPS Error	None		
	Report)			
(12)	2) Citation Control Record/Inventory status			
(13)	3) Citation Control Review			
(14)	4) Citation Number Expansion			
(15)	15) Citation Disposition bulletin			

Record Title, Content & Usage Retenti

Minimum Retention Period in Court

Ultimate Disposition of Record

(16)	Conciliation Disposition Error Report	None
(17)	Daily Listing of Cases files (overview)	None
(18)	Daily Name Index Back-up (Daily Participant	Until replaced by fiche
	Report)	
(19)	Daily Probate Document Index	Until replaced by fiche
(20)	Disposition Error Reports	None
(21)	Dissolutions & Annulments	None
(22)	Expired Judgment Report	None
(23)	Judgment Abstract Report	None
(24)	Final Count Disposition Report (SJIS)	None
(25)	General Extract Report	None
(26)	Juvenile SJIS Error Report (Minn. SJIS)	None
(27)	Monthly listing of Cases filed	None
(28)	Outstanding Warrant Report	None
(29)	Quashed Warrant Report	None
(30)	Pending Archive Activity list	None
(31)	Probate Reminder Summary	None
(32)	SJIS Summary Statistics	None